



CITY OF SANFORD
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. STEERING COMMITTEE

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MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
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Dear Parade Participants:

On behalf of the Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Steering Committee, we extend a heartfelt "Thank You" for your past support and participation in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade. I am writing to inform you of changes to the 2009 MLK Parade Route. Also, to invite you to continue your participation as we look to the future with a renewed vision and resolve to not only keep Dr. King's dream alive, but to live it as well.

As a result of the tremendous support from organizations and individuals such as yourself and the Sanford community at large, the Parade has grown considerably since its inception. Although growth can be a positive, usually with growth comes change. The growth of the Parade has caused some concerns necessitating the need for revisions and change to the Parade and the Parade Route. These changes are necessary to maintain the dignity and integrity we as a community should expect and demand. Also, we need to reduce the cost of conducting the Parade. To be specific the concerns are:

- The number of individuals, groups and organization participating has increased;
- The length and time frame to complete the Parade has increased to over three hours;
- The number of police and volunteers needed to patrol and insure safety of both participants and viewers has increased;
- The length of time Major Streets are closed and traffic detoured to neighborhood streets have increased;
- The Parade route is approximately 2.5 miles long and poses a strain and challenge for some of the participants to walk;
- The recent City and County budgetary constraints directly impacts all of us, so, we all need to be consciously exploring ways to reduce expenses where we can; and
- The construction project that will be in progress on First Street at the time of the parade.

In response to the concerns and to ensure public safety, the MLK Steering Committee has changed the Parade Route for 2009. The **new Parade Route for this year will begin at Crooms Academy of Information Technology (corner of Persimmon Avenue and 13th Street) – heading east on 13th Street to Holly Avenue, turn left at Holly Avenue – continue to 9th Street and make a left onto 9th Street at Coastline Park where it will disburse. Those participating in the Unity March will re-assemble in the SunTrust Bank on First Street parking lot and march east on First Street to Fort Mellon Park.**

The Friendly City

Because of your past support, and commitment to commemorating Dr. King's contributions to promoting *Social Change, Non-violence, Self-respect, Dignity, Peace and Unity*, we hope you are interested in seeing the Parade continue as one of the main events of our MLK celebration. Therefore, we are asking for your continued collaboration, cooperation, understanding and participation in the MLK 2009 Parade as we strive to make this event one the Sanford Community can be proud of.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to your future participation.

Sincerely,

Bernard D. Mitchell

Bernard D. Mitchell, Chairman
Martin Luther King, Jr. Steering Committee

BDM/acd
12.19.08